

HEALTH
1946
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HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.RANSON M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1945



SECTION A - Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

Area in acres..... 1172
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)..... 6017
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945)
according to the Rate Books..... 1890
Rateable Value £28,329
Sum represented by a penny rate £106. 14. 2.

Extracts from vital statistics:-

	Total	Male	Female
Live births:			
Legitimate	74	40	34
Illegitimate	15	3	12
Still births	1		
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	13.1		
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	11.1		
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)	89		
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	13.1.		
Death rate of infants under one year of age:-			
Total deaths	6		
Deaths of all infants per 1,000 live births	67.4		
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	54.0		
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	33.3		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	0		

Deaths at the various age groups, 1945
(registered and transferred)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Under 1 year	6
1 and under 2 years	0
2 and under 5 years	0
5 and under 15 years	0
15 and under 25 years	1
25 and under 35 years	2
35 and under 45 years	4
45 and under 55 years	7
55 and under 65 years	11
65 and under 75 years	22
75 and upwards	39
	Total 92

SECTION B. Health services of the Area.

A. Public Health Officers

- (1) J. S. Ranson M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.
- (2) W. A. Nicholson M.I.M.C.E.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

B. There have been no changes in the following services during the year:

- (1) Laboratory Services.
- (2) Ambulance Services.
- (3) Nursing in the home.
- (4) Clinics and treatment centres.
- (5) Hospitals.

SECTION C - Sanitary circumstances of the area

Inspections made during the year 1945.

Number of inspections made and re-inspections	395
Nuisances detected	159
Water Closets repaired	47
Dustbins renewed	86
Other nuisances abated	10
Informal notices served	105
Statutory notices served	35
Informal notices complied with	72
Statutory notices complied with	28

Statutory notices complied with 28

Statutory notices complied with 28

Statutory notices complied with 28

Water Supply.

The water supply from the Council's borehole has been sufficient during the year, but the pressure to the high parts of the town remains low. The supply would not be sufficient in the event of any increased consumption and one of the problems of the future remains the providing of additional water at sufficient pressure to supply, adequately, all parts of the town. No samples of the town's water supply were submitted for analysis during the year.

SECTION D. -- Housing.

The supplying of additional houses is an urgent matter. The prefabricated houses and permanent houses being erected in Windmill Road and Mitchell Avenue will provide accommodation for a number of families which at present have no homes of their own, and still more houses will be required for this purpose. In the town there remains a large number of houses which being very small and poorly constructed, fall far short of modern requirements. The Council intends to develop the town by building a large number of houses close to the Mitchell Avenue estate. Tenants of these houses, when built, must come, partially, from these old and unsatisfactory houses.

If steps are taken to ensure that when once these house are vacated, they are either demolished or made absolutely fit, by degrees, the housing problem of the town should be solved.

It must be borne in mind that the demolition of bad houses is just as important as the building of new ones.

Inspections of dwelling houses during the year.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	83
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Number of inspections made for the purpose	176
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Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
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Number of dwelling houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	52
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Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers ..	37
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Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served requiring repairs	16
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Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	13
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Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
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Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
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Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
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Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil
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Overcrowding.

There were no dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1944, and no case was found during the year 1945.

SECTION E. - Inspection and supervision of food.

The following food supplies have been surrendered and condemned during the year:-

Meat	Tins 26
	Pounds ... 35½
Bacon	Pounds ... 16
Butter	Pounds ... 26
Cheese	Pounds ... 14
Fish	Tins 36
Milk	Tins 25
Beans	Tins 22
Pears	Tins 2
Spice	Packets .. 22
Syrup	Tins 2
Cereal	Packets .. 12

All slaughter houses have remained closed.
The inspection of cowsheds and dairies has been continued.

SECTION F - Prevalence and control over infectious and other diseases.

Few years have been so noteworthy as 1945 for the absence of cases of infectious disease. There was a considerable outbreak of measles and a small outbreak of whooping cough, but apart from these cases the number of cases notified has been exceptionally low. The incidence of cases of scarlet fever (2 cases) has seldom been so low. Once again no case of diphtheria has occurred. Immunisation against this disease has continued to be carried out with the result that nearly every child is now immunised. The parents of a few children still refuse permission for their immunisation.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	67	--	--
Whooping Cough	11	--	--
Scarlet Fever	2	-1-	--
Diphtheria	0	--	--
Erysipelas	1	--	--
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Totals	81	1	Nil
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Tuberculosis:

Cases notified:--

Adults - pulmonary	Male	3
	Female	3
Adults - non-pulmonary	Male	0
	Female	0
Children - pulmonary	Male	0
	Female	0
Children - non-pulmonary	Male	1
	Female	0

Deaths:--

Adults - pulmonary	Male	0
	Female	1
Adults - non-pulmonary	Male	0
	Female	0
Children		0

(Signed) J. S. RANSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

1st. August, 1946.

